 **R.O.A.R Report**

Visit us at: <http://rimrock.mesa.k12.co.us/> Old editions will be archived on our website.

Mission Statement: Rim Rock nurtures and equips mindful, engaged and empowered learners. **Si usted necesita una traducción en español favor de llamar al 254-5484. Estamos para servirles.**

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**August 23, 2019**

# Upcoming Dates

**Preschool 1st day – August 26th**

No School – Monday, Sept. 2 –Holiday

**PTO Meeting - Thursday, Sept. 5 – 4:10 pm - Library**

School Advisory Council - Thursday, Sept. 19 - 4:30 pm **Picture Day – Tuesday, Sept. 24th**

**Focus on Learning:**

# School Advisory Council (SAC)

We will hold our first SAC meeting on Thursday, September 19 at 4:30 in our conference room. Our agenda will include the following items:

1. Introductions and Planning
2. Review Safety Plan and Schedules
3. Share and Review School Budget
4. Share school data and goals

Carolyn Nenne will continue to be our chairperson. Any interested parents and community members are always welcome to attend. We are arranging for childcare during these meetings. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school.

# Ways to Share our Work

Our staff is always hard at work to provide the best learning opportunities for your children. We want to encourage you to be a partner in this learning and work by engaging in conversations with your child about their day. One way we are sharing and supporting you with conversation starters is by posting weekly events and/or thought on our school Facebook page:[https://www.facebook.com/Rim-RockElementary-178372062579265/](https://www.facebook.com/Rim-Rock-Elementary-178372062579265/) Please like and follow us. **#LynxLearning**

**#WeareD51**

**Focus on Safety:**

**Before School Safety**

We have staff assigned to playground supervision starting at **8:35 a.m.** each morning. Children should not be on school grounds before this time as there is no adult supervision.

**Drills**

On August 15 and August 21 we held our first two fire drills. Having conversations with your child(ren) about these drills will help reinforce the importance as well as decrease the level of anxiety. In addition, to support reducing the anxiety, all fire drills will be announced this year. Students are encouraged to stop, look, think about the circumstances and then evacuate the building.

We will have our first Lock Down drill before the end of this semester. Our first drill will be a Shelter-in Place drill. During this drill we pull all students and staff into the building/modulars, continue our learning but ensure that students and staff remain in classrooms and in the building. Having this type of drill first, will allow students to get used to the idea of a lockdown and prepare them for our Lock Down later in the year.

# Attention All Dog and Cat Owners

Our district **prohibits** any dogs or cats on school grounds (except service animals). Many of you have been taking advantage of the warm weather and bringing your furry friends along with you to school. Our policy includes pets walking to and from school. Basically, our furry friends should not be on school grounds unless confined within a vehicle. As most of you know, I am an animal lover and enjoy seeing all of your pets; however, we need to follow the required State Health Departments guidelines (‘Rules and Regulations Governing Schools in the State of Colorado’, Regulation 3-402) and Board Policy IMC-R (Animals on School Premises).

# Safety and Flow of Traffic in Our Parking Lot

As you know, we are trying a new traffic pattern in our parking lot. Drop off is not as busy due to families coming at different times; however, we ask that you do not leave your car unattended at the curb at anytime. In addition, we are asking for families of our primary learners to pull down as far on the curb as you can – we are checking your signs on your dash and will bring/send your children to your cars.

This year, with the implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten requiring hand-to-hand pick up at the end of the day, and the potential of 50 additional vehicles, we are going to try a **NEW** traffic pattern. Our first recommendation to ALL families is to **AVOID** our parking lot and use our cross-walk system (we have one at both ends of our property with a crossing guard) by parking down the street and walking to campus.

We are designating the WEST end of the curb for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade families for pick up and drop off. These families will use the mid-way island to pull along the curb to pick up and drop off your child(ren).

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade parents will continue down to the end of the parking lot and use the EAST end of the curb for pick up and drop off. Again, PLEASE pull as far forward as you can along the curb. Families with learners in BOTH sets of grades will pick up in this area. (Ask older siblings to go to this end of the building and bring all family members to the car.)

PLEASE do not stop out in the parking lot lanes and wait for your children – this will only be for those families using a parking spot or exiting the parking lot (moving traffic).

Our primary staff are going to escort our youngest learners to cars along the curb only, please do not leave your vehicles unattended. We will identify your child by using your sign in the window. If you park in a parking spot, you can come across the lot and get your child(ren) – we will not bring them out into the moving lane or parking lot.

This entire process will take patience and trust as well as time to perfect.

To keep students safe, help with the flow of cars and prevent staff and parents from being blocked in, we have the following expectations for everyone:

* + Place your student’s ID card in your **passenger** side dashboard window for easy viewing.
  + Stay in your car if you stop along the curb.  The curb is for PICK UP / DROP OFF ONLY – PLEASE be patient and DO NOT leave your cars unattended.
  + Avoid stopping in the areas marked in red or outlined with cones.
  + If you are going into the building, **please** park in a parking space or along the road – not behind parked cars or along the curb or in the bus loop.
  + The bus loop is for buses ONLY – PLEASE do not use it for pick-up or drop-off purposes.
  + For Safety reasons, children are instructed to remain on the sidewalk until a parent or guardian is present to escort them out into the parking lot.  Please help us reinforce this procedure by discussing this procedure with your child.
  + If you are parking on the dirt path along the fence, please park with your car facing South.
  + Many families/students walk and ride to school together – please remember, for safety reasons, all bikes, scooters and skateboards need to be walked on campus – this includes adults as well as older and younger siblings.
  + Please refrain from cell phone use in our parking lot.
  + **Please do not block the handicap designated spots or ramps.**
  + Please avoid driving into the bike lanes when passing turning/stopped traffic.

In addition, you can park all along J 6/10 – you can also park along the **west** side of South Fremont Street – however, it is **a no parking zone** along the east side (the fence side).

As a reminder, we do have two staff members serving as cross walk guards to assist students/families in crossing the street.  Many families utilize these guards and stop along the curb to let children out to cross at the cross walks.  We also have a large number of bike and scooter riders that support the flow of our traffic– rain and snow will add to the number of vehicles – keep this in mind.

You may park in our lot at any time and walk to pick up your child – you do not have to go through the pick-up line.

We are always thinking of ways to keep your children safe and we appreciate your patience as well as your support in following these guidelines.

# School Messenger

If you would like to “opt in” to text notifications from District 51, please text “yes” to 67587.

**Focus on Our Community:**

**Counselors Corner**

Hello from the Counselors…

Dear Rim Rock Families,

Welcome to a new school year at Rim Rock Elementary School! We are thrilled to introduce our new part-time counselor (Laura Ousley). We are excited for this school year, and our new counseling team! We believe this additional support will allow us to have a positive impact on student learning, and provide solid support in the areas of social and emotional development. We look forward to partnering with you and supporting all learners. As elementary school counselors, our role is to provide support to students, teachers, and parents with the overall goal of student success.

We have a variety of fun lessons and activities planned during the year that will teach important life skills to all students as well as support and encourage them to have a successful year. We have the opportunity to meet with each class (Kindergarten – 5th) two times per month. Our lessons this year will support the classroom teacher’s social/emotional learning work by reinforcing the concepts set forth by the D51 SEL framework.  They will relate to self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and social management, while weaving in pieces of bully-proofing, growth mindset, habits of mind, and personal safety.

Along with these lessons we will have ongoing class discussions that focus on using kind words, being a good friend, dealing with bullying situations, problem solving, and maintaining our school as a caring community. In August, the counselors’ lessons will focus on ROAR behavior, an introduction to what the school counselor does, and a getting to know you activity.

In addition to classroom workshops, we will offer small groups where students will work with others who may be dealing with similar life issues.  These groups will focus on topics such as grief, changing families, social skills, feelings, friendship, etc.  Participation in small groups will happen as students are identified and referred by their classroom teacher, parent or guardian, or by a personal request. Small group activities for students will happen during a time that is least disruptive to classroom learning, and will happen only with parent permission.  We believe that small group workshops can be a powerful way for students to connect and share similar experiences in a safe environment. As needed, we will also meet with students on a brief individual basis to offer more focused support.  If together we decide that your student would benefit from professional counseling services, we can also provide a list of outside counselors that may best fit your family’s needs.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your student please do not hesitate to call us at 254-6770 ext. 5.  We look forward to sharing a wonderful year with your family!

Respectfully,

Kristen Walke and Laura Ousley

Rim Rock Elementary School

Counselors

